

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Executive Office of Health and Human Services

Department of Public Health

Bureau of Health Professions Licensure

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Massachusetts Licensed Ambulance Services

FROM: James Lavery 
Director, Bureau of Health Professions Licensure

Eric Sheehan, J.D. 
Director, Bureau of Health Care Safety and Quality

DATE: April 3, 2017

RE: Process for Ambulance Services Opting to Carry and Use Ketamine as Authorized for Use by Paramedics When Treating Behavioral Emergency Patients.

Purpose:

This notification is intended to inform ALS-paramedic level ambulance services regarding the process for obtaining a Massachusetts Controlled Substances Registration (MCSR) to carry and have their appropriately trained paramedics use Ketamine, a Schedule III medication, in accordance with the EMS Statewide Treatment Protocols (STP).

Background:

Ketamine was added to the 2016 STP, effective December 15, 2016, as an approved optional drug for use by paramedics under Protocol 2.4, as a single dose of 4 mg/kg intramuscularly in the rare event of a behaviorally dyscontrolled adult patient whose condition is so severe that it cannot be managed safely in any other manner. The language and dosing align with the 2016 National Model EMS Clinical Guidelines, published by the National Organization of State EMS Officials. Ketamine is a Schedule III controlled substance under chapter 94C of the General Laws. Ambulance services' current MCSRs do not authorize them to carry Ketamine.

Process and Timeline:

Effective today, April 3, 2017, ambulance services that wish to carry Ketamine will need to complete a single, newly revised MCSR application form. This application is for ambulance

services to apply to carry substances, including Schedules II, IV, VI, Epinephrine, Naloxone and/or Schedule III-Ketamine only.

Ambulance services that have a **current** MCSR but wish to carry Ketamine should fill out the application and only request approval to carry this drug. This should be returned to the Department at no additional fee. This application will be reviewed and if approved, will be current through the expiration date of the ambulance service's current MCSR. The ambulance service will be issued an MCSR that notes that it has permission to carry Ketamine and all other previously approved drugs.

The MCSR will permit the ALS-Paramedic service to carry 500mg of Ketamine per ambulance. Please note that "Advisory 16-09-01 Required Medications on ALS Ambulances per Statewide Treatment Protocols 2016" has been revised to reflect this corrected quantity of Ketamine, to reflect how the medication is packaged and carried by hospital pharmacies.

Ambulance services that need to **renew** their MCSR and also wish to carry Ketamine should fill out the application and indicate all of the drugs that it seeks approval to carry. The annual \$300 fee should be included in this submission. If approved, the ambulance service will be issued an MCSR that notes that it has permission to carry Ketamine and all other approved drugs.

Attached please find the new MCSR application. You may also find it online at:
<http://www.mass.gov/eohhs/gov/departments/dph/programs/hcq/drug-control/mcsr/>.

The revised STP Advisory may be found online at:
<http://www.mass.gov/eohhs/docs/dph/emergency-services/required-med-als-per-stp.pdf>.

Contact Information

For questions about the MCSRs, please contact mcsr@massmail.state.ma.us.